

Appl. No. 10/675,828
Amdt. dated 11/21/2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examination and consideration of this application as amended is kindly requested. By this amendment, Claims 1, 9 and 18 have been amended. After this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-24 remain pending in this application.

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 9 and 18 to correct minor typographical errors and to affirmatively recite the present invention. No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim. No new matter was added.

In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9 and 18. Applicants believe this amendment serves a useful clarification purpose, and is desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendment does not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

Applicants acknowledge the continuing duty of candor and good faith to disclosure of information known to be material to the examination of this application. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, all such information is dutifully made of record. The foreseeable equivalents of any territory that may be surrendered by this amendment are limited to the territory taught by the information of record. No other territory afforded by the doctrine of equivalents is knowingly surrendered and everything else is unforeseeable at the time of this amendment by the Applicants and their attorneys.

It is submitted that Claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

The present application, after entry of this amendment, comprises twenty-four (24) claims, including five (5) independent claims. Applicants have previously paid for

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twenty-four (24) claims including five (5) independent claims. Applicants, therefore, believe that an additional fee for claim amendment is currently not due.

If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities which can be corrected by Examiner's amendment, or that an interview would help advance the prosecution of this patent application, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at (561) 989-9811 is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 09-0463.

It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Consideration and examination of the claims as amended is kindly requested.

Date: 3/17/04

Respectfully submitted,

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**Please send all correspondence concerning
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